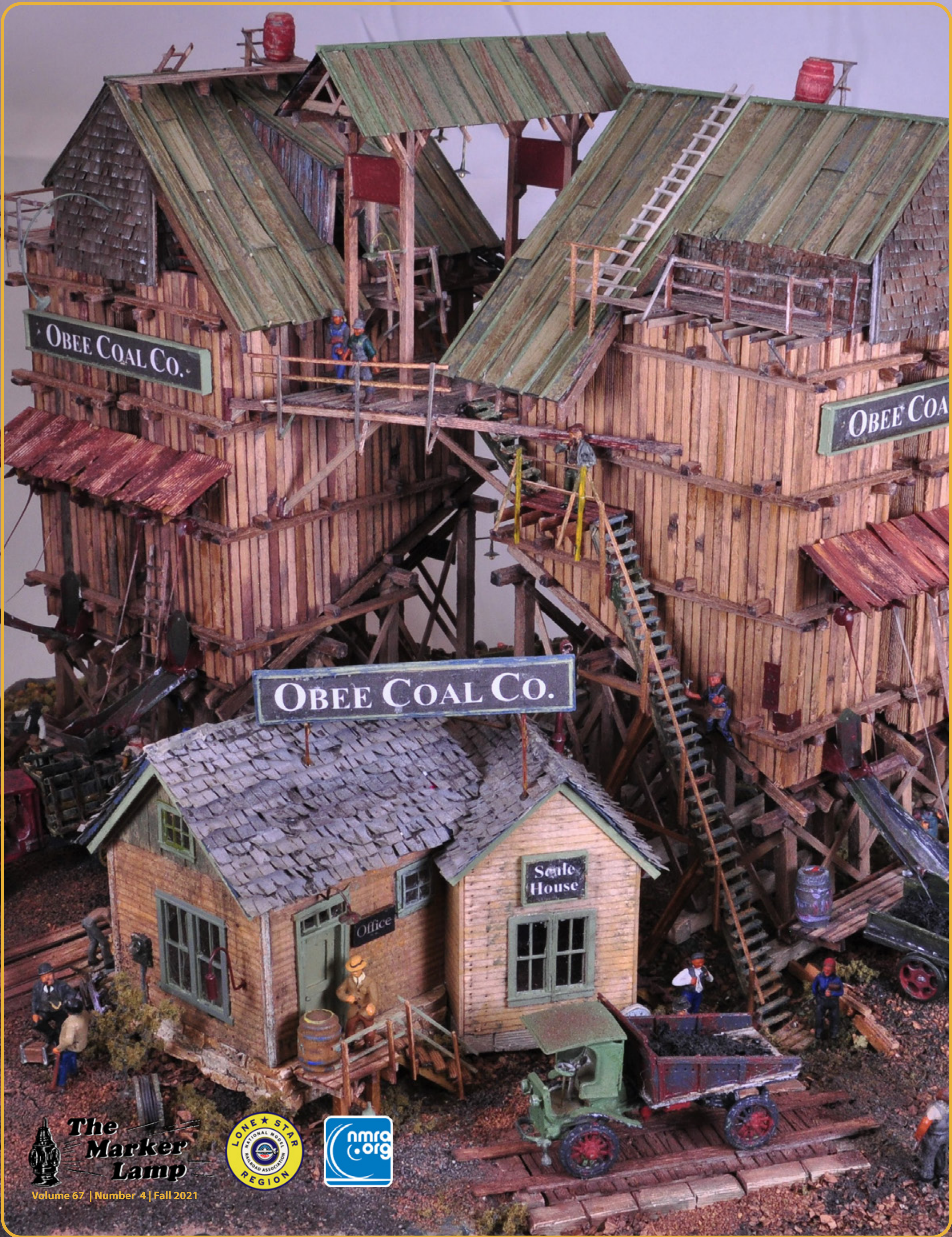


The Marker Lamp

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The Marker Lamp

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Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided. Correspondence relating to Pike Ads and Dealer Ads should be addressed to Speed Muller lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com

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President's Message

by Donna Orr
donnalorrtx@gmail.com



Can you believe it? It's holiday time again. Model Trains under the trees for Christmas. Do you remember when you saw your first model train? When you decided that model trains were going to be the hobby for you? Or did it creep up on you later in life? This time of year, is a great time to remember those childhood days when you didn't have to worry about anything except watch the trains run. There is something mesmerizing about watching trains run.

We all know that membership in the NMRA is waning. However, thinking about how I became interested in trains, why not convince those that you know, to get train sets for under the Christmas Tree, and if not under the tree, how about its own tree? (left)

Back to model trains, what are you plans for your own layout? Or would you be interested in some other facet of our great hobby? Have you seen some of the Lego trains? Very interesting. And for those of you that do not have the space for a large layout, what about getting together with a few others in your area, and start a module group.

What are you noticing about trends in both our model train hobby and real-life rail? Autonomous Trains? Artificial intelligence? Decarbonization? Automation? Augmented and Virtual Reality? (there I go again with the Sci-Fi) Check it out and see. Let me know what you think.

For me, personally, I'm still trying to get all of my layouts up and running. But it is "Christmas Time" and at my house we are putting up our animated lighting display. It's a little bigger this year. With a Santa Land outdoor train display. Lights and songs should be running the Saturday after thanksgiving. Come by in December and watch and listen and come in and visit.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and really enjoys *the most wonderful time of the year.*



Club Op Session

by Riley Triggs
rileytriggs@gmail.com
ponyrr.blogspot.com
modelrailroaddesign.blogspot.com





Mid-op briefing before taking out the Katy local from Taylor Yard. The MoPac local works in the far left corner out of their Austin yard.

The Austin Model Railway Society continues to be active the last part of this year. We've held monthly meetings, and the last one was our first operations session with the new downtown Austin modules.

The downtown modules are a little wider at 30" to accommodate the extra track and buildings found in this dense, operations-rich section of the layout. It includes small yards of the MoPac, Katy, and SP (T&NO) stretching along the Colorado River from modern-day N. Lamar Blvd to almost US 183.

Built by several members over the course of last year, this was the second live test - the first being at the Austin Area Train Show in August. We found a few things to address, but none that kept everyone from having fun.

Jack Merkel prepared the operating session with trains originating from and terminating in Taylor Yard. The session was anchored by three locals from each of the railroads servicing Austin in the late 50s and early 60s.

Two person crews went out at the start of the session, and worked most of the three plus hour session. Switch lists were used, which is much simpler to deal with than car cards when we several people are bringing personal equipment. Before the session, a list of types and numbers of cars is sent out to the members, and then placed at spots according to a setup plan. Switch lists are generated based on car types. During the session several through trains also run including both freight and passenger trains.

The session went well, and everyone seemed to enjoy the new modules and finally getting to play with them! Notes were taken, and there will be some changes next time around in December. The main one being that the locals will be half as big and there will be two run for each railroad making a total of six locals. This will make the trains shorter, and will allow for more people to operate in the downtown area and jobs more manageable.

Our layout is to the point where it is really paying off in modeling and operations satisfaction. This sort of large layout is possible only because a group of talented and dedicated individuals have worked together for four years to create a slice of Central Texas railroading. We're growing and continuing to accept new members, so stop on by AustinRailway.org and come see the layout in person. during a monthly meeting. Stay tuned for a large expansion and more quality modeling this coming year!

Riley



Downtown Austin CAD drawing in HO Scale by David Petersen



A contemporary Amtrak locomotive blocks downtown Austin streets while taking on passengers at the 1930s renovated MoPac station by Steve Jackobs

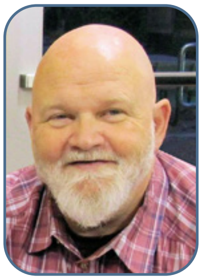


The MKT local works its Central Austin Yard.



The SP local works from the East Austin Yard.

Up the Tracks Events Calendar



By Bill Dryden
NMRA & LSR Life Member

DISCLAIMER in light of COVID-19

I have visited each of the web sites provided, however, you should (re)verify any event you are interested in attending before traveling to it.

Here are upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA Scale Rails and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via e-mail at bdr149@airmail.net.

2022 Lone Star Region NMRA
May 5-7, 2022

Mayborn Convention Center
Temple, Texas

Come all!!
PARTICIPATE!!!

RECURRING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

LSR Division 3 - Trinity River Division – Allen

The Trinity River Division meets on the Third Saturday of every month at the Christ Servant Lutheran Church, Allen Texas. Occasionally things change due to scheduling conflicts so pay close attention to the email meeting notices that go out a week before the meeting. If you would like to be added to the email list contact Donna Orr at donnalorrtx@gmail.com.

LSR Division 4 – Cen-Tex Division – Austin

The Cen-Tex Division meets bi-monthly at the Austin Northwest Recreational Center, 2913 Northland Drive, Austin, TX. Meetings are held at 10:00 am on the Second Saturday of the *odd* months and include clinics, show-and-tell, DCC minute, social activities and a layout open house. For more information about upcoming meetings, see http://centexnmra.org or contact director@centexnmra.org to be added to the mail list.

LSR Division 8 - Texas Gulf Division – Houston

The Texas Gulf Division presents hands-on-clinics every second Saturday of each month at the Bayland Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston. The clinic times are 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All are welcome. To be added to the Division 8 mailing list contact Jim Lemmond at jimlem@comcast.net. The Division 8 web site is http://texasgulfdivision.org/

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers - San Antonio

The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Turner (210) 355-2777; or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

Austin Model Railway Society - Austin

The Austin Model Railway Society is a HO scale modular group that is open to new members and meets once a month. For more information please email Riley Triggs at president@austinrailway.org or visit the web site www.austinrailway.org.

Houston Area Live Steamers

HALS has over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride on most any Saturday of the year. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Rick White – rick.white.jr@gmail.com for more information.

New Braunfels Railroad Museum

Kids Fun Day is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. New Braunfels Railroad Museum, 302 South San Antonio Street, in the 1907 Restored Railroad Depot; New Braunfels, TX. Museum phone (830) 627-2447. Kids of all ages will have the opportunity to run model trains and become a Jr. Engineer. Also among the displays at the Kids Fun Day will be a large US Army Model Garden (G) Scale and Lego Trains. Visit our Steam Engine, Caboose, Dining Car (available for Birthday Parties) and Box Car. There will be other fun, train related activities, additional model trains, train artifacts, our 1907 depot are on display. The Railroad Museum opens at 10:00 am on Saturdays. For field trip scheduling and more information, call Howard Young (210) 542-6121, or visit us at www.nbrrm.org.

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs – Irving

The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Visit the website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or member clubs.

San Antonio Model Railroad Association - San Antonio

The San Antonio Model Railroad Association, SAMRA, is open to new members and meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Bob Clarke Rail Heritage Museum, 7702 Narrow Pass, Live Oak, TX. Please visit our website www.samratx.org for information about our activities and their dates and times. Also, like us on Facebook.

South Texas Railroad Socials – San Antonio

The "Socials" are a casual gathering of train folks in South Texas, both modelers and prototype railfans. We gather quarterly for a couple hours of Clinics and Presentations, Show-n-Tell, regional news, Q&A and funny video clips. Not a meeting, not a club, just buy lunch at the restaurant and use their party room. Started in 2018, went virtual via Zoom in 2020, going hybrid in 2021 (back to in-person and virtual). Plus, we have Shop Talk, a quarterly 'project guys' round table gathering, in between the Socials. Read more, see photos from past Socials and find our next date, at www.SouthTexasRR.com.

Texas Northern Model Railroad Club – Dallas (North)

The Texas Northern Model Railroad Club business meeting is the 1st Thursday of the month and for regular meetings on Thursday evenings and most Saturdays. If you like to operate, come by on Tuesday nights to join our weekly operation session. Located in North Dallas at 11999 Plano Rd., Suite 154, Dallas, TX 7 5243. For more information: www.texasnorthern.org.

Texas Western Model Railroad Club – Forest Hills

The Texas Western Model Railroad Club meets for its business meeting every 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. The Club is located at 6808 Forest Hills Drive, Forest Hills, TX. For more information: (682) 587-2092 or www.twmrc.org or email cdo@twmrc.org.

EVENTS AND SHOWS

December 2021

11th – 12th Temple-Belton Toy & Train Hobby Show. Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission $5, Holiday Inn, 5247 I 35, (Midway Exit 297), Temple-Belton, TX. More information: Ed Stroll (512) 431-2931.

January 2022

15th – 16th Dallas Area Train Show. (Sponsored by the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs). Sat. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sun. 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Adults $10, Children 12 and under Free, "Sorry, we can only accept cash at the door." Plano Civic Centre, 2000 E Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX. More information: https://www.dfwtrainshows.com/

February 2022

12th The Greater Houston Train Show. Sat. 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. Adults and Youth $5, Under 12 FREE, Max. $10 per family. Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, TX: http://sanjacmodeltrains.org/

August 2022

27th – 28th Austin Area Train Show 2022. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $8, Children 12 and under FREE with adult. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX. More information: info@austintrainshow.org or https://austintrainshow.org/ or follow AMRS on Facebook!

Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.

Excursion Train Trips

Austin Steam Train Cedar Park, TX; (512) 477-8468; www.austinsteamtrain.org

Grapevine Vintage Railroad Grapevine, TX; (817) 410-3185; www.gvrr.com

Old Hickory Railroad Jackson, LA; (225) 634-7397; www.louisianasteamtrain.com

Texas State Railroad Palestine & Rusk, TX; (888) 987-2461; www.texasstaterr.com

Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.



Whose track goes there?

You tell me whose layout this big photo is from, and I will give the first person to email me the correct answer at rrrduino@huntatrophy.com a campfire lighting Arduino next time we meet!



Help Save the Crescent Lines!



The Crescent City Model Railroad Club in Metairie, Louisiana needs your help to raise funds for a new roof to replace the current one that was damaged during Hurricane Ida on August 29, 2021. A neighbor's roof came off his home and blew over our building causing multiple holes in our roof and causing water damage inside of our building. In addition to that, another neighbor's tree fell on the back corner of the building causing more damage and leaks. Please donate at the Go Fund Me page: https://gofund.me/a96d6a2b

Please Donate at
Go Fund Me
https://gofund.me/a96d6a2b



CRESCENT LINES

www.ccmrc.com



2022 Lone Star Region Convention Temple, Tx May 5-7

We are looking for members who would like participate by presenting clinics. The clinic theme is

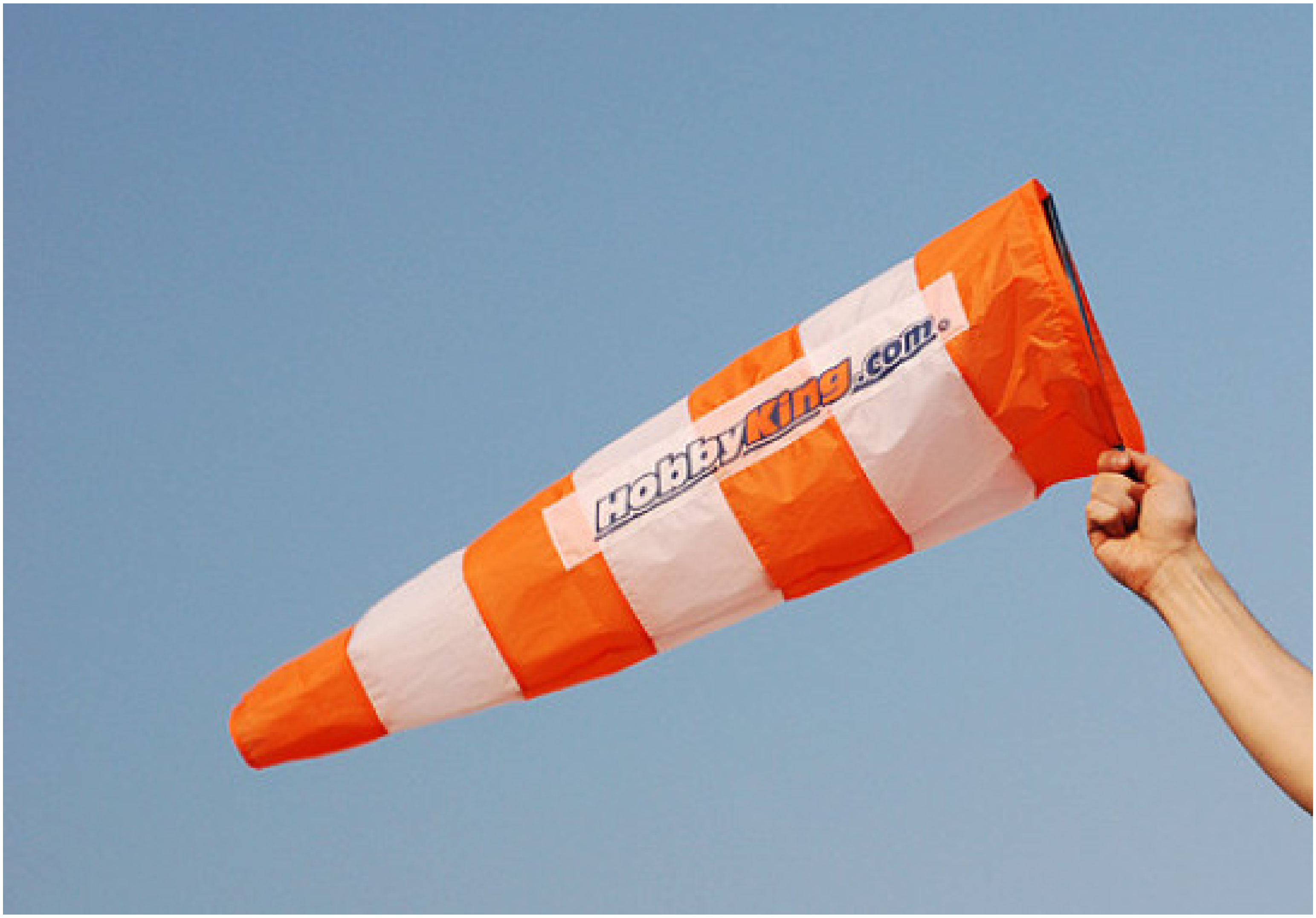
"Working towards the Achievement Program"

If you are interested in helping out, contact Bob Thiele, Cen-Tex director at rthiele52@hotmail.com

...RRRduino...

by Speed

Windsock!

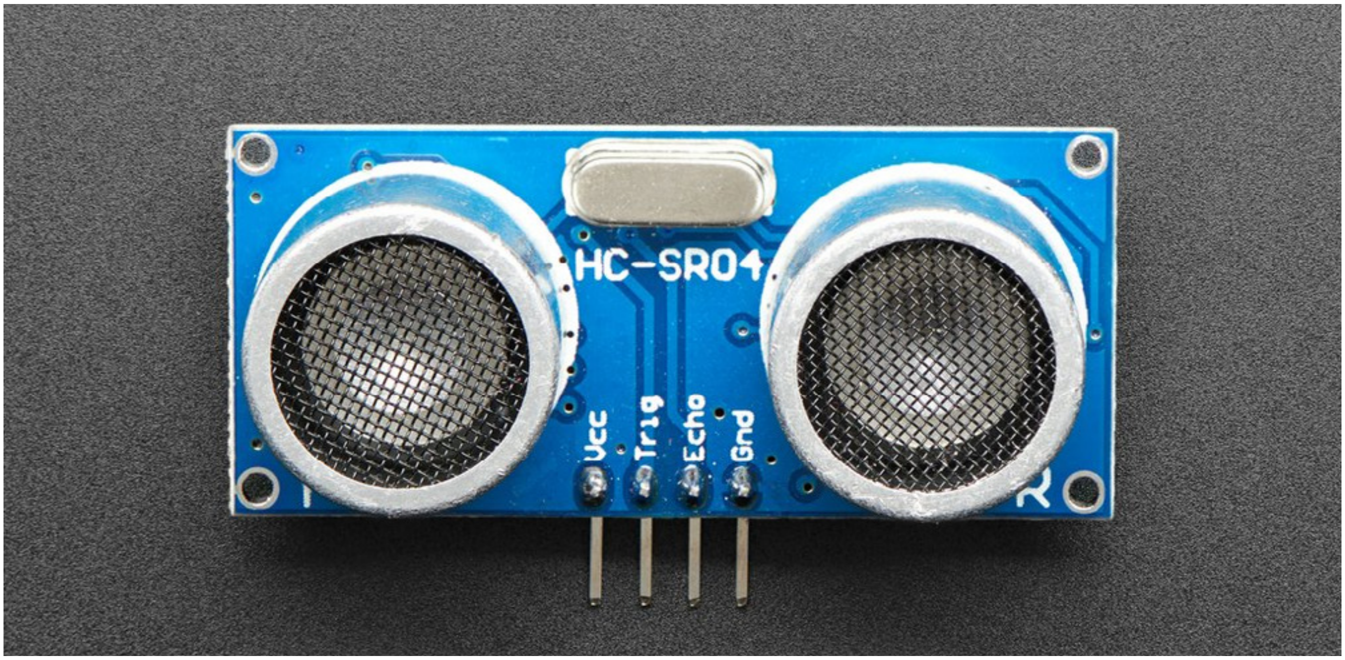


(*photo from https://hobbyking.com/en_us/hobbyking-scale-airport-windsock-rip-stop.html, just in case you want a real one!*)

What if you are modeling an airport on your layout (please check this out to get inspired), or what if you don't? Well then at least get a sign and a windsock!

But windsocks don't just look pretty, they have a purpose. So what if we can make the windsock turn as your body moves from left to right or from the right to the left. Imagine the wind is blowing into the windsock from a fan in your hat, and it turns as you move?

Two ultrasonic sensors to the rescue, each measuring the distance you are from it and a servo to turn the windsock. If you are closer to the sensor on the left, then the windsock turns away from you to the right, and vice versa when you are on the right side. If you stand dead center in the middle, then the windsock points, again, straight away from you.

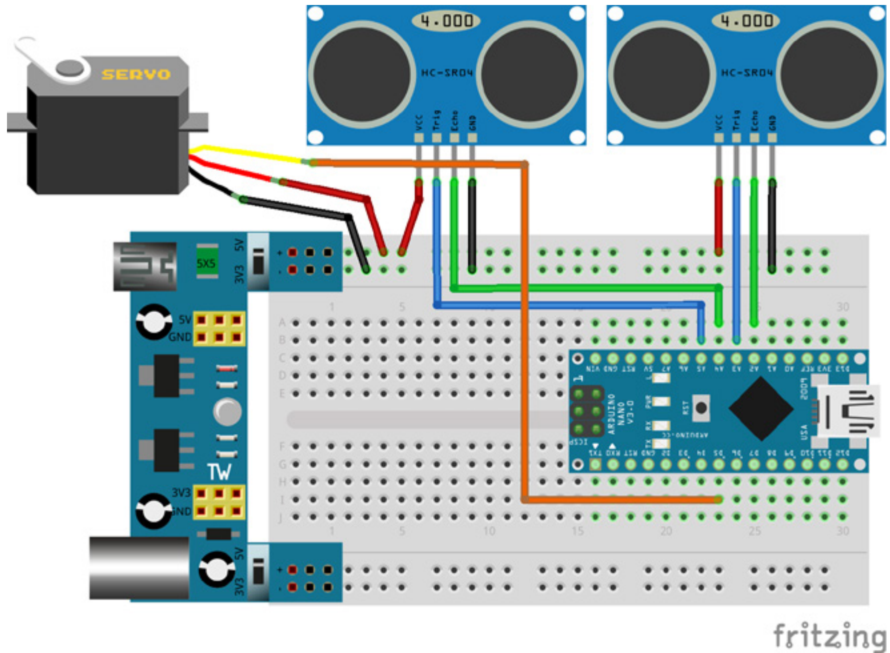


(*photo from https://learn.adafruit.com/ultrasonic-sonar-distance-sensors, who also sells the sensors for less than $4*)

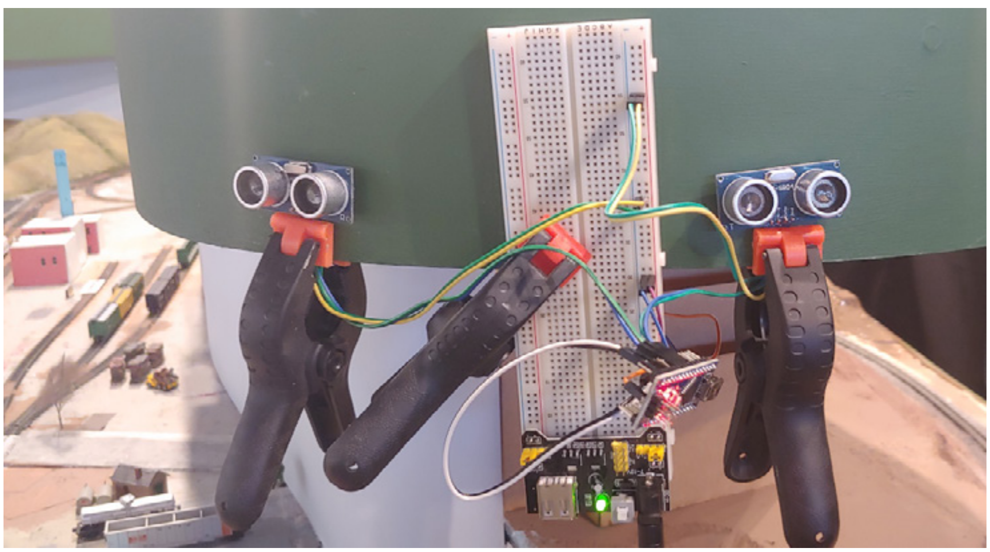
The HC-SR04 ultrasonic sensors transmit a 40 kHz signal (a little above our hearing range, therefore the “ultra” with the sonic) and receive the signal back from whatever it reflects from. They claim you can use it to determine if something is anywhere from 2 cm to 4 meters away. (Sorry that was ¾ inches to 157 inches (or 13 feet)) They are commonly used in little robots that stop and turn before they bump into something, or in more useful applications like parking assistance sensors. Here is a cool video showing the distance as demonstrated by Adafruit.
(https://www.adafruit.com/product/3942)

A good 5V power supply to the sensors (and servo) is recommended, and guess what, they make a very inexpensive (~$2) “breadboard power supply” that lugs in on the edge of your breadboard, see the connection diagram below! Make sure the jumpers on the power supply board are set to 5V, since your servo would appreciate that. Connecting the SR04 sensors is quite easy: the VCC pin goes to 5V and the GND pin, of course, gets connected to the Arduino and power supply’s GND pins. The TRIG pin, when forced HI for more than 10 microseconds, will convince the sensor to emit or start to emit it’s ultrasonic magic. And if you are watching the ECHO pin, it will go HI when the ultrasonic beam goes out, and will go LOW when the echo is received back. So if we measure the time it is HI, we know how far you are away. If we take turns to do that with the left sensor and then the right sensor, we could reach back into 6th grade trigonometry and calculate your angle to the windsock...well, since my math books are still in Africa, we will just make some educated guesses and determine which sensor says you are closer and make the wind comply!

Before we leave the discussion of the power supply, just know that there is also an Adafruit US100 which will work with 3.3V, if you have converted to something like the Pi Pico RP2040 or the ESP8266/ESP32 devices. The US100 also has a UART interface, which very likely will tell you the distance, if I had to take a wild guess. Wait, why don’t you look that up for homework and let me know? I do know the US100 also contains a temperature sensor, so maybe you can add a second servo to raise or lower the windsock when the temperature changes? I’ll file the patent soon.



A power supply (from 12Vdc), a Nano, a Servo and two SR04 sensors on a breadboard.




Quick breadboard setup against the layout underneath the airfield. Windsock by copper wire and paper.

The Arduino software has a function called pulseIn(pin, value[, timeout]), see https://www.arduino.cc/reference/en/language/functions/advanced-io/pulsein/, where the "timeout" is optional, but the pin is specified and the function returns the time the pulse spent HI or LOW.

From the create.arduino.cc website, this is how they (or Arbi) suggest we read the distance:

```
// ---------------------------------------------------------------- //
// Arduino Ultrasoninc Sensor HC-SR04
// Re-writed by Arbi Abdul Jabbaar, and then Speed messed with it
// Using Arduino IDE 1.8.7
// Using HC-SR04 Module
// Tested on 17 September 2019
// ---------------------------------------------------------------- //
#define VERSION_STR "ML-2021-4 Windsock measure"
#define echoPin1 2 // attach pin D2 Arduino to pin Echo of 1st HC-SR04
#define trigPin1 3 // attach pin D3 Arduino to pin Trig of 1st HC-SR04
#define echoPin2 4 // attach pin D4 Arduino to pin Echo of 2nd HC-SR04
#define trigPin2 5 // attach pin D5 Arduino to pin Trig of 2nd HC-SR04

// defines variables
long duration1; // variable for the 1st duration of sound wave travel
int distance1;  // variable for the 1st distance measurement
long duration2; // variable for the 2nd duration of sound wave travel
int distance2;  // variable for the 2nd distance measurement

void setup( ) {
  pinMode( trigPin1, OUTPUT ); // Sets the trigPin1 as an OUTPUT
  pinMode( echoPin1, INPUT );  // Sets the echoPin1 as an INPUT
  pinMode( trigPin2, OUTPUT ); // Sets the trigPin2 as an OUTPUT
  pinMode( echoPin2, INPUT );  // Sets the echoPin2 as an INPUT

  Serial.begin( 115200 );      // Serial baudrate 11520
  Serial.println( VERSION_STR );
} // setup( )

void loop( ) {
  // Clear the trigPin1 condition
  digitalWrite( trigPin1, LOW );
  delayMicroseconds( 2 );
  // Set the trigPin1 HIGH (ACTIVE) for 10 microseconds
  digitalWrite( trigPin1, HIGH );
  delayMicroseconds( 10 );
  digitalWrite( trigPin1, LOW );
  // Read the echoPin, returns the sound wave travel time in microseconds
  duration1 = pulseIn( echoPin1, HIGH );

  // Clear the trigPin2 condition
  digitalWrite( trigPin2, LOW );
  delayMicroseconds( 2 );
  // Set the trigPin2 HIGH (ACTIVE) for 10 microseconds
  digitalWrite( trigPin2, HIGH );
  delayMicroseconds( 10 );
  digitalWrite( trigPin2, LOW );
  // Read the echoPin, returns the sound wave travel time in microseconds
  duration2 = pulseIn( echoPin2, HIGH );

  // Calculating the distances
  distance1 = duration1 * 0.034 / 2; // Speed of sound divided by 2 (there and back)
  distance2 = duration2 * 0.034 / 2;
```

```
  // Displays the distance on the Serial Monitor
 Serial.print( "Distance 1: " );
 Serial.print( distance1 );
 Serial.print( " cm; Distance 2: " );
 Serial.print( distance2 );
 Serial.println( " cm" );
}
```

So now we have the distance you are away from sensor1 and the same from sensor 2. Which brings us to the part we skipped, how do you mount these sensors. Well, I am suggesting you put them a few feet apart and then rotate them slightly towards each other, so that both sensors will see you when you are in front of, to the left of and to the right of the windsock on the layout.

Let's put the code in functions, so loop( ) can be easier to read:

```
uint16_t readDistance( uint8_t trigPin, uint8_t echoPin ) {
  long duration = 0;
  long distance = 0;
  digitalWrite( trigPin, LOW );        // Clear the trigPin condition
  delayMicroseconds( 2 );              // for 2 microseconds
  digitalWrite( trigPin, HIGH );       // Set the trigPin HIGH (ACTIVE)
  delayMicroseconds( 10 );             // for 10 microseconds
  digitalWrite( trigPin, LOW );
  duration = pulseIn( echoPin, HIGH ); // Read the time echoPin is high
  distance = duration * 0.034 / 2;
  return (uint16_t)distance;
} // uint16_t readDistance( uint8_t, uint8_t )

void loop( ) {
  distance1 = readDistance( trigPin1, echoPin1 );
  distance2 = readDistance( trigPin2, echoPin2 );

  // Displays the distance on the Serial Monitor
 Serial.print( "Distance 1: " );
 Serial.print( readDuration );
 Serial.print( " cm; Distance 2: " );
 Serial.print( distance2 );
 Serial.println( " cm" );
} // loop( )
```

Since we don't really want to be 13 feet away, we will limit the maximum distances to 2 feet, or 24 inches, which rounds nicely to 61 cm. So whoever is smaller, will win here...in other words, if the sensor says you are 100 cm away, the min(61, 100) function will say you are 61 cm away:

```
  distance1 = min( 61, readDistance( trigPin1, echoPin1 ) );
  distance2 = min( 61, readDistance( trigPin2, echoPin2 ) );
```

Why, because the angle the windsock needs to turn is so small, that further away is not making a noticeable change.

With the servo at 90 degrees, and the windsock straight away from the layout's edge into the layout, we can map the servo to 15-165 to get a good range.

A rough table with some distances and wanted windsock degrees:

Dis1	Dis2	Wind Deg	sum(Dis1,Dis2)	Dis1/sum	Dis2/sum
10	60	165	70	0.14	0.85
35	35	90	70	0.50	0.50
50	50	90	100	0.50	0.50
60	10	15	70	0.85	0.14

This brings us to a shortcut where we use a mapping of the windsock degrees by using the distance D1 divided by the sum of the distances (D1+D2), multiplied by 100, to avoid the fractions and then mapped to 15 and 165 degrees.

```
commandedServoAngle = map( (distance1*100)/(distance1+distance2), 10, 85, 165, 15 );
```

Again, the map(x, minX, maxX, minY, maxY) function will take the value x, and depending where it sits within minX and maxX, map it to a value between minY and maxY.

We also want the windsock to move REALLY slow, so we only move the servo's angle one click towards the commandedAngle every "loop( )" cycle:

```
If servoAngle < commandedServoAngle, increase servoAngle
Else if servoAngle > commandedServoAngle, decrease servoAngle
else Do nothing
```

And then the magic servo write command:

```
windsockServo.write( servoAngle );
```

So, here we go:

```
#include <Servo.h>
#define VERSION_STR "ML-2021-4 Windsock move, rev 0.1"

#define echoPin1 A2 // attach pin D2 Arduino to pin Echo of 1st HC-SR04
#define trigPin1 A3 // attach pin D3 Arduino to pin Trig of 1st HC-SR04
#define echoPin2 A4 // attach pin D4 Arduino to pin Echo of 2nd HC-SR04
#define trigPin2 A5 // attach pin D5 Arduino to pin Trig of 2nd HC-SR04
#define servoPin  5 // one of those PWM tilde pins, connected to servo ctl wire

// defines variables
int distance1;      // variable for the 1st distance measurement
int distance2;      // variable for the 2nd distance measurement

Servo windsockServo;
uint8_t servoAngle;
uint8_t commandedServoAngle = 90; // a place to start on power up

void setup( ) {
  pinMode( trigPin1, OUTPUT ); // Sets the trigPin1 as an OUTPUT
  pinMode( echoPin1, INPUT );  // Sets the echoPin1 as an INPUT
  pinMode( trigPin2, OUTPUT ); // Sets the trigPin2 as an OUTPUT
  pinMode( echoPin2, INPUT );  // Sets the echoPin2 as an INPUT

  windsockServo.attach( servoPin );
  windsockServo.write( commandedServoAngle );

  Serial.begin( 115200 );     // Serial baudrate 11520
  Serial.println( VERSION_STR );
```

```
} // setup( )

void loop( ) {
  distance1 = readDistance( trigPin1, echoPin1 );
  distance2 = readDistance( trigPin2, echoPin2 );

  uint16_t value = (distance1 * 100) / (distance1 + distance2);

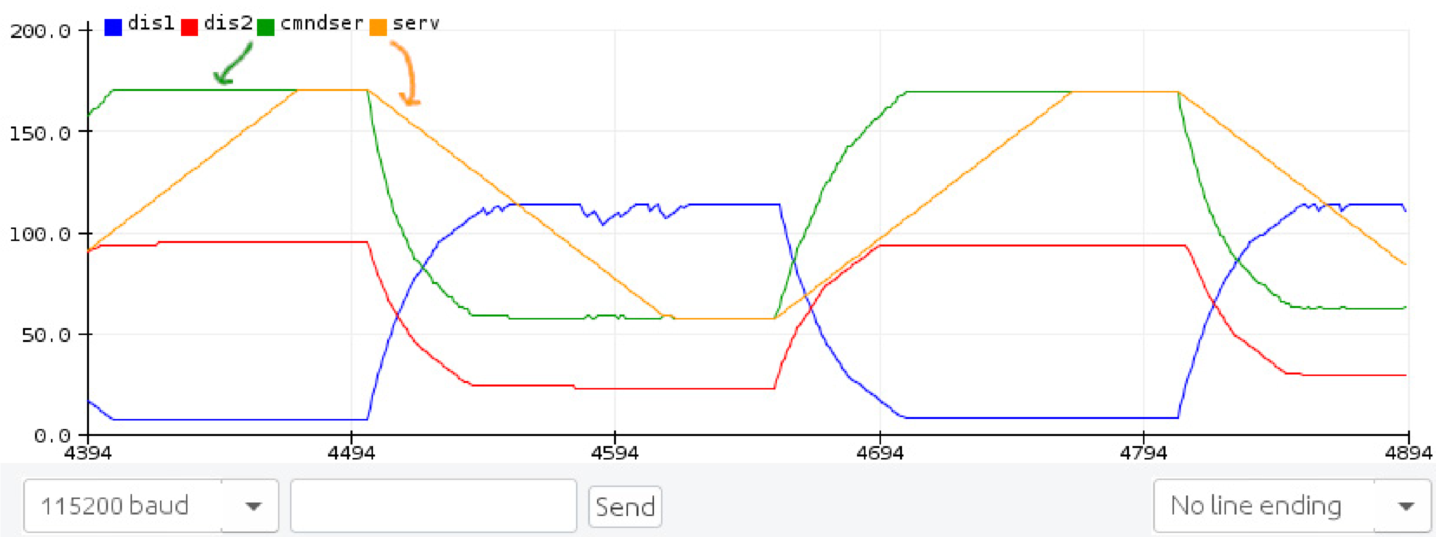
  // Need to change direction? Swap any 165 with 15.
  // Need a different servo range, change the 10 and or 85.
  commandedServoAngle = map( value, 10, 85, 165, 15 );

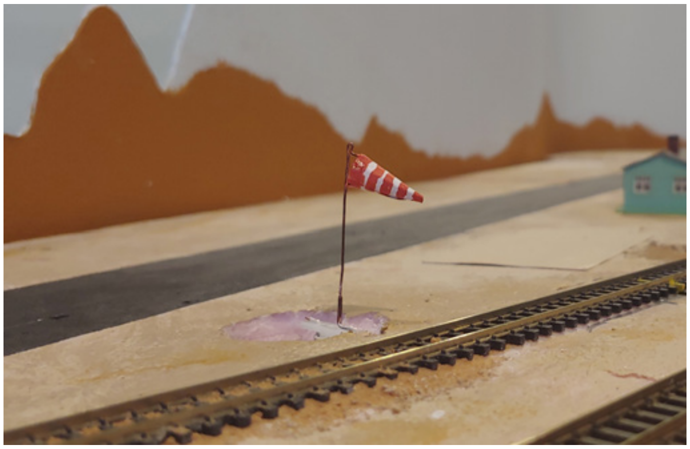
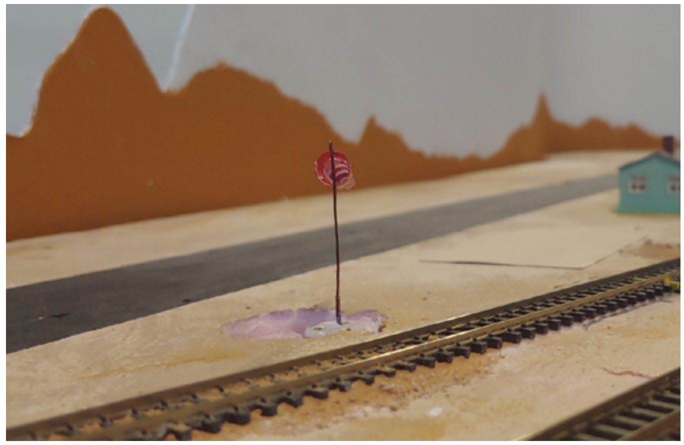
  if( servoAngle > commandedServoAngle )
    servoAngle--;
  else
    if( servoAngle < commandedServoAngle )
      servoAngle++;

  windsockServo.write( servoAngle );
  delay( 1000 );                    // yes, delay is bad, I know!
} // loop( )
```

And of course the same `uint16_t readDistance( uint8_t trigPin, uint8_t echoPin ) { … }` function shown earlier.

By using the Serial Plotter under Tools in the menu, you can see how the servo is commanded in green, and the servo follows it, quite a bit slower, remember wind takes time to turn direction. And this is all because the blue and red “distance” sensors (dis1 and dis2) swap signal strength as you move from left to right and back to the left.



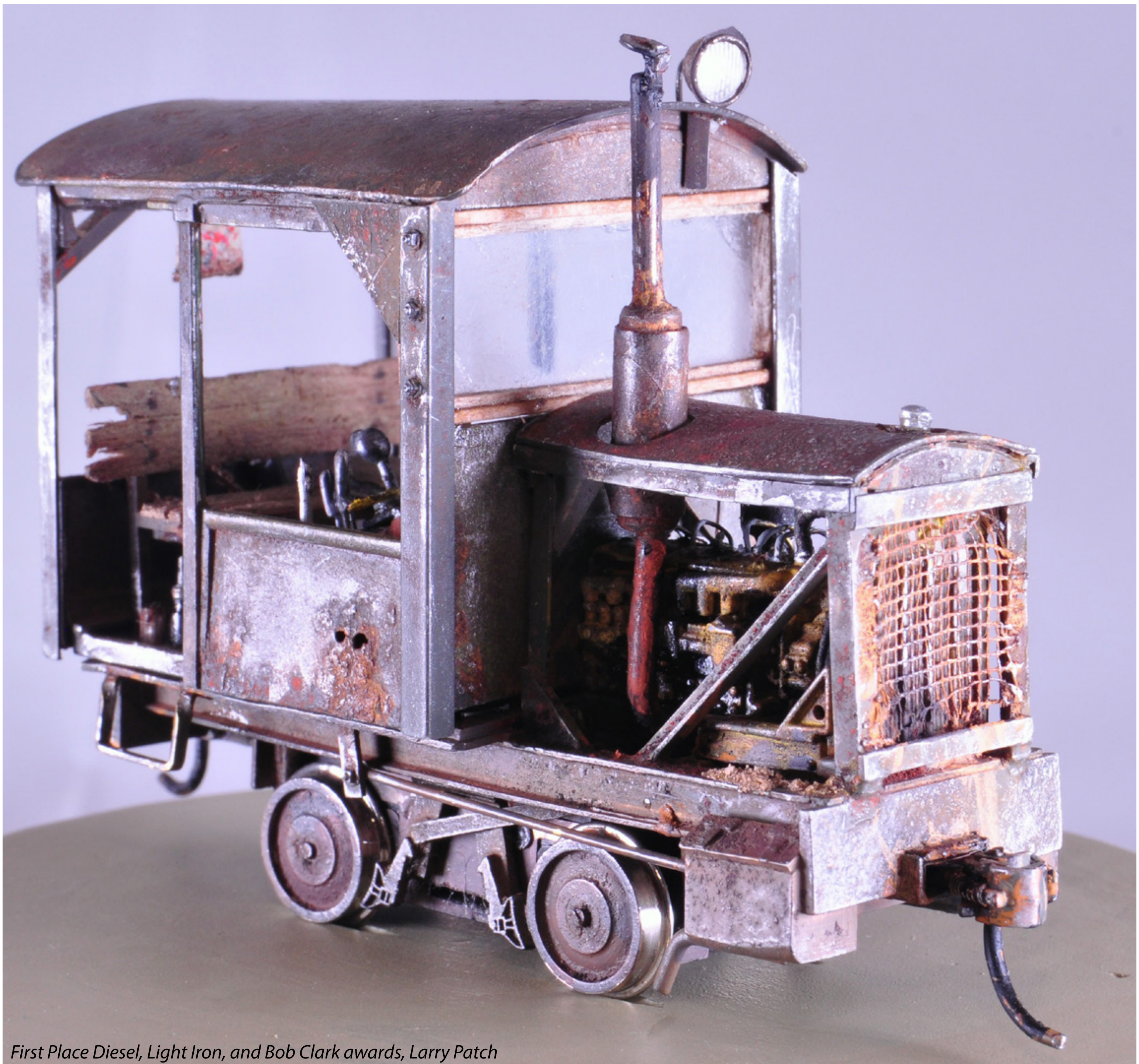
Standing on the left side of the runway vs. Standing on the right side of the runway

Lots more HC-SR04 information and pretty oscilloscope traces at https://www.davidpilling.com/wiki/index.php/HCSR04, a web page by David Pilling.

Just remember, our windsock only shows wind direction (at 15+ knots), not the wind speed by having the sock droop down at some band...wait, how 'bout leaving that part for a homework exercise, LOL. The code from above, with some filters to smooth the sensor data and calibration, will be uploaded to blog.RRRduino.com shortly. Any questions? ML

2021 Tulsa Union Contest results

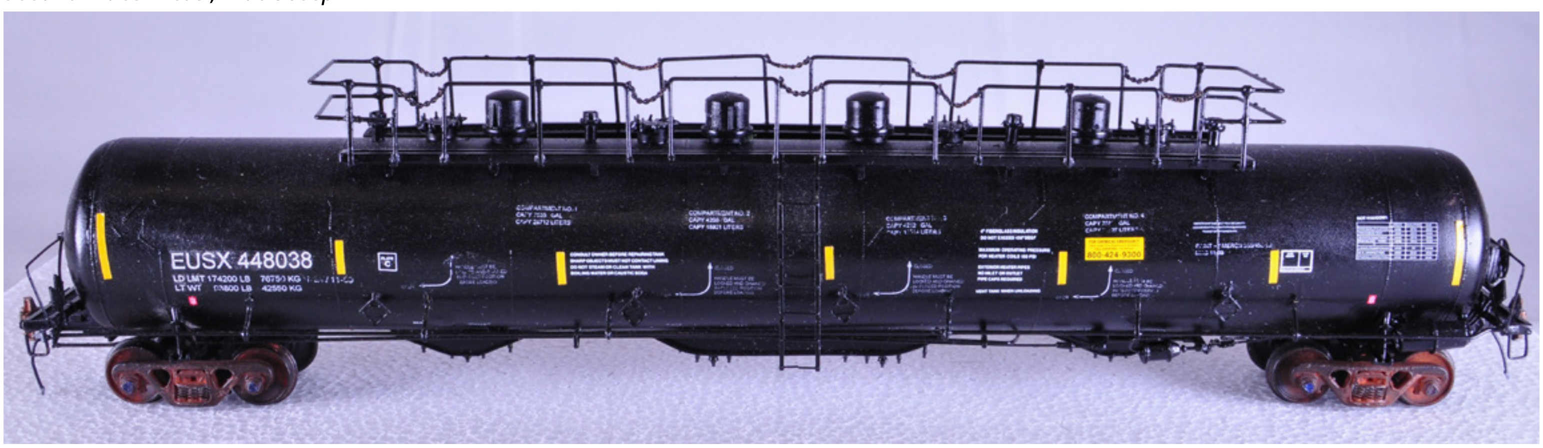
reported by Marc LaChey
photos by Michael Harang



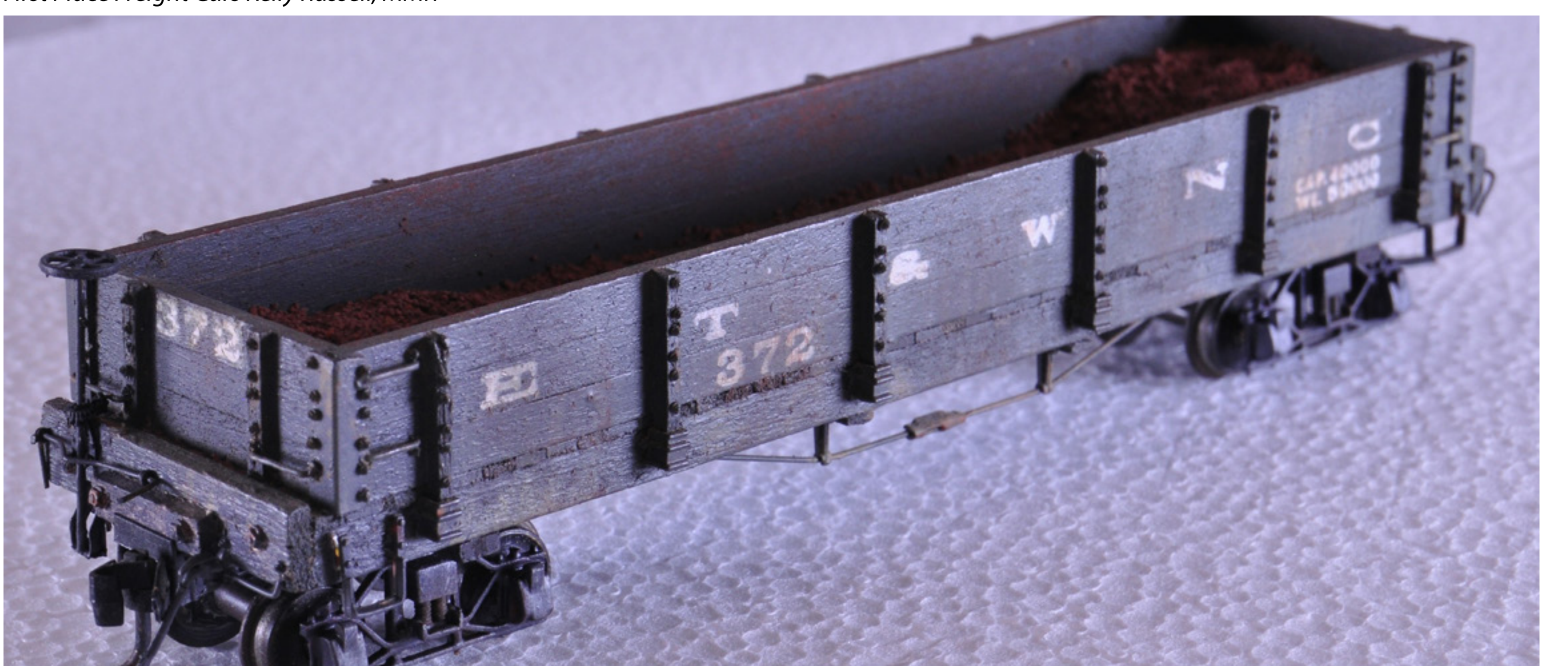
First Place Diesel, Light Iron, and Bob Clark awards, Larry Patch



Second Place Diesel, Brad Joseph



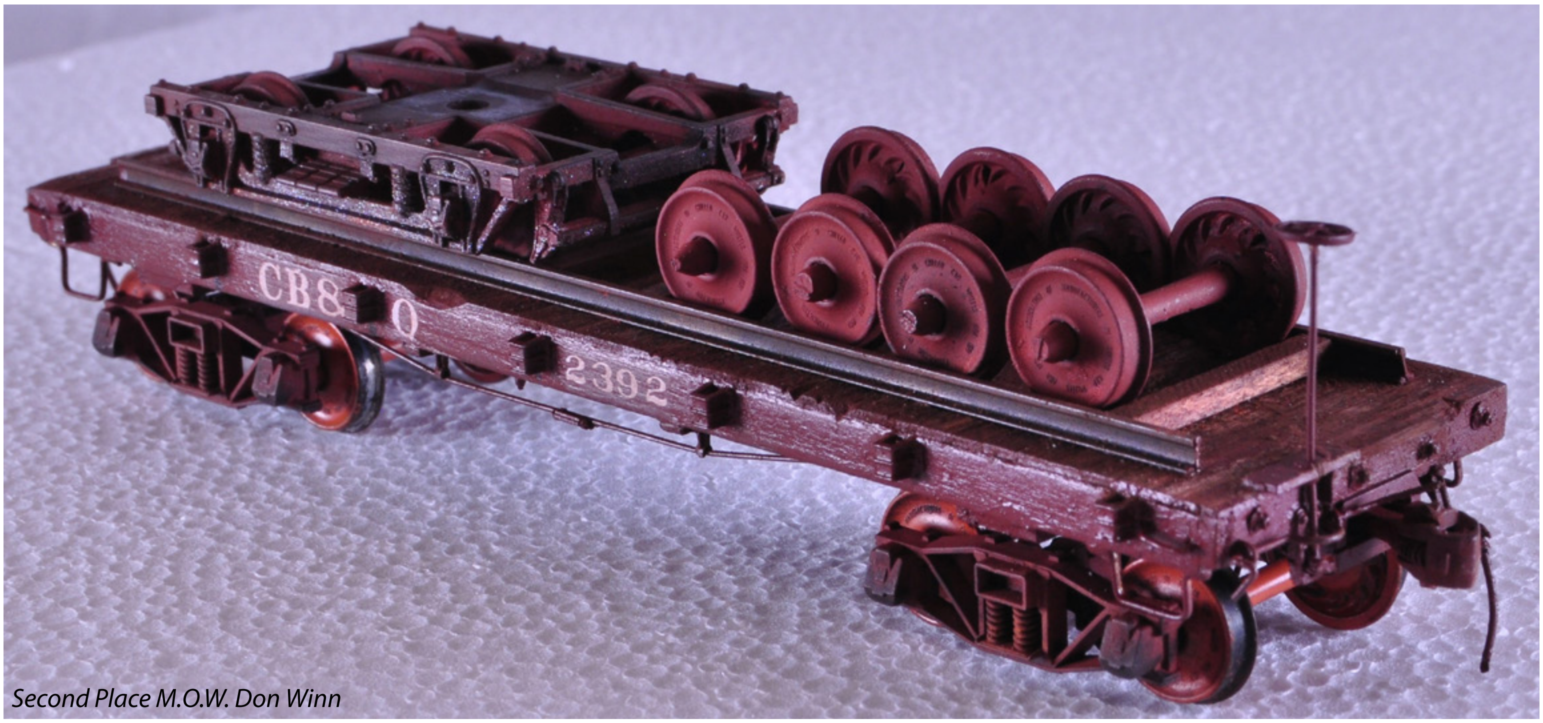
First Place Freight Cars Kelly Russell, MMR



Second Place Freight Cars, Dean Smith

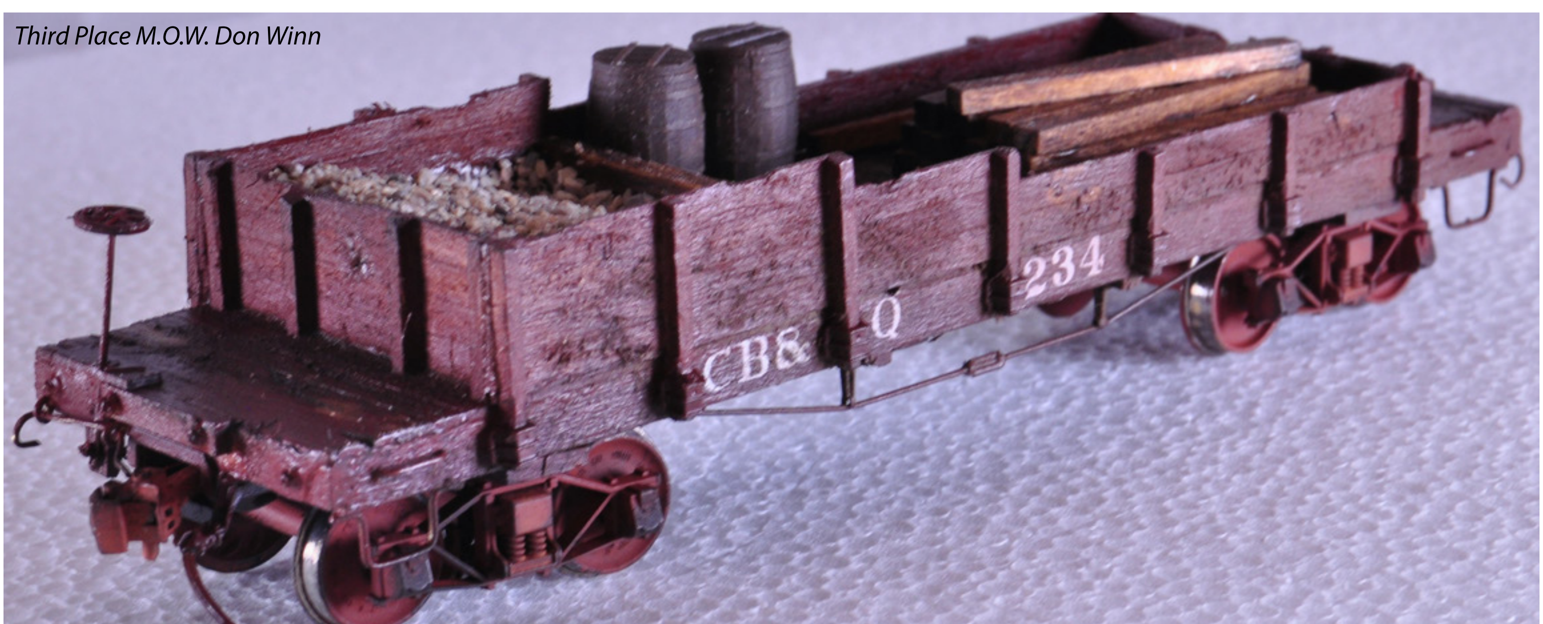


First Place M.O.W. and overall Participation Award for most entires, Don Winn



Second Place M.O.W. Don Winn

Third Place M.O.W. Don Winn

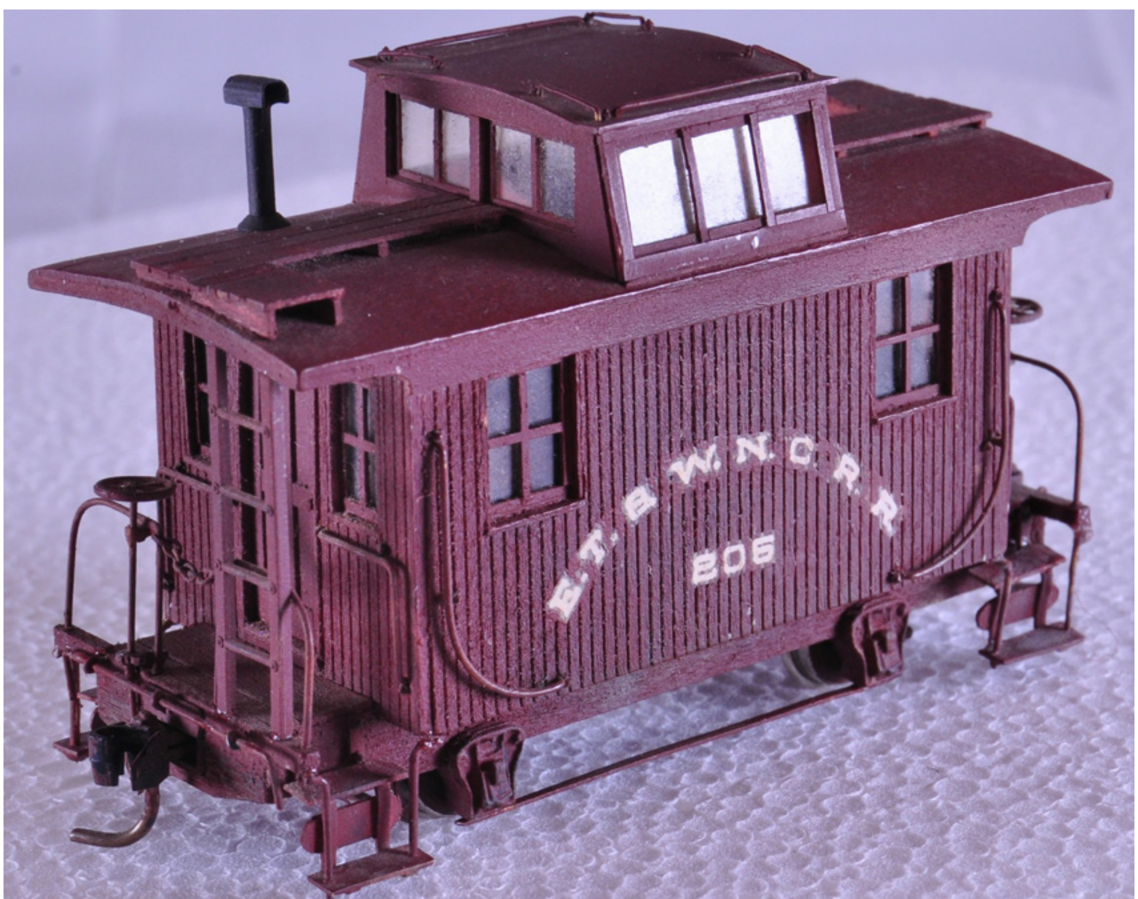




First Place Caboose and Best in Show, Larry Patch



Second Place Caboose, Chuck Lind, MMR



Third Place Caboose, Dean Smith



First Place Passenger Cars, Kelly Russell, MMR



Second Place Passenger Cars, Jack Ferris



First Place On-line Structures, Mike Mackey, MMR



Second Place On-line Structures, Dave Salamon



Third Place On-line Structures, Don Winn



First Place Off-line Structures, Don Winn



Second Place Off-line Structures, Don Winn



Third Place Off-line Structures, Dave Saloman



First Place Displays, Best Trees, and Members' Best in Show, Chuck Lind, MMR



Second Place Displays, Best Built Kit award, Larry Diehl



Third Place Displays, Larry Diehl



First Place Favorite Train, Mike Mackey, MMR

Second Place Favorite Train, Don Winn (no photo)



First Place B&W Models, Duane Richardson, MMR



Second Place B&W Models, Ken Ehlers, MMR



Third Place B&W Models, Geoffrey Hogno



First Place B&W Prototype, Marc LaChey



Second Place B&W Prototype, William Hobbs



Third Place B&W Prototype, Marc LaChey



First Place Color Models, Ken Ehlers, MMR



First Place Color Models, Ken Ehlers, MMR



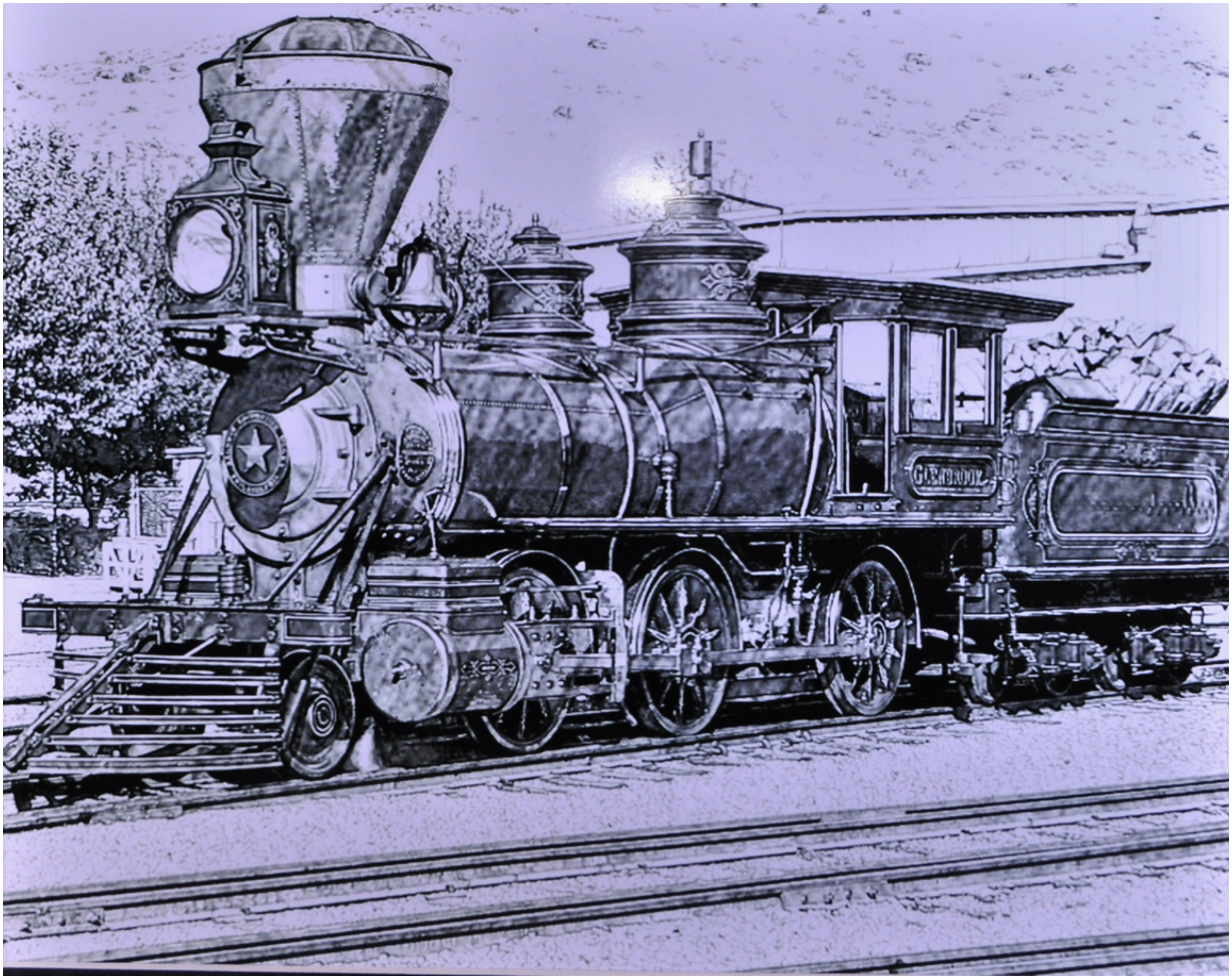
First Place Color Prototype and Best of Show Photo, Marc LaChey



Second Place Color Prototype, Duane Richardson, MMR



Third Place Color Prototype, Marc LaChey



First Place Computer Enhanced Photo Model or Prototype, Duane Richardson, MMR



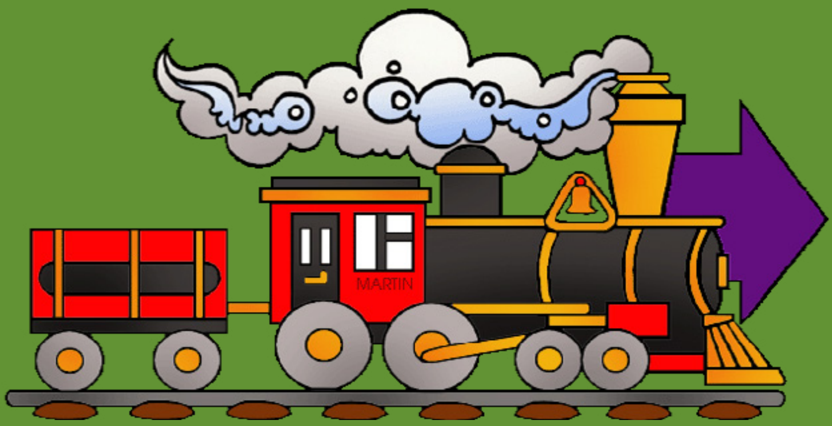
Arts and Crafts Theme and Best in Show, Divina Gato-Hogno



Arts and Crafts Railroadiana, Divina Gato-Hogno

Novice Best of Show, Michael Harang (no photo available)

ML



Wanted! Nominees for the LSR 2022 Youth Award

- **<u>Who:</u>** Any boy or girl 18 years old or younger with an interest in model railroading.
- **<u>Where:</u>** One nominee from each LSR Division.
- **<u>A past awardee:</u>** May be renominated for another year if they meet the qualifications specified in the LSR Constitution. **Contact Jim Lemmond** jimlem@comcast.net

<u>How:</u> Fill out the special Youth Award Membership Form available on http://www.lonestarregion.com/

<u>When:</u> Submit your nomination to **<u>your LSR Division Director</u>** by December 1, 2021.

For more information contact:
Jim Lemmond, Youth Chairman: jimlem@comcast.net



NOW AVAILABLE!

Color

Pike and Dealer Ads

Pike and dealer ads are now available in color for the same price! Share your railroad or advertise your business to others while supporting the Lone Star Region.

- Do you have a herald for your railroad?
- Is there a unique feature?
- What is the name of your hotshot freight or crack passenger service?

Let everyone know about it with a color ad!

Pike ads are $8 per year and dealer ads are $20 per year.

Payment should be made out to:
LSR NMRA

Contact Speed Muller
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com

Ads can then be sent as a JPG file attached to an email to:
rileytriggs@gmail.com

LS&NF Railroad

An Indoors G Gauge Layout

by John Emerson



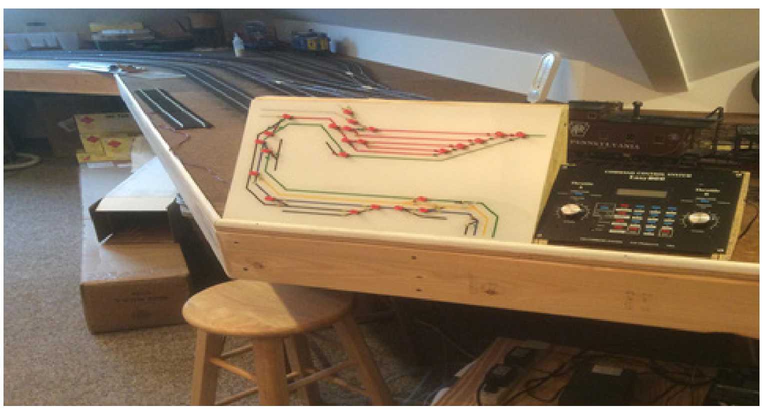
In 2015 we decided to build a new home outside Amarillo, TX, including a full basement for my G Gauge Late Start & Never Finish Railroad. We finished the house in January 2016, and I started the layout in April. The layout is currently operational, and I welcome visitors and operators (find me in the NMRA Layout Directory).

Follow along with my Journal Entries as I planned and constructed the new LS & NF Railroad. But first a little bit of the prior layout.

My previous layout had 31 turnouts and 700+ feet of hand laid track - fully operational Layout followed walls around the 2nd floor with a 250' loop of track, 2 passing sidings, and a large yard. Unfortunately, it never got beyond a plywood prairie. But it sure was fun to go upstairs and operate the trains and yards.



Previous layout yard looking from main room toward room over Garage.



Easy DCC System and control panel located over garage section of layout



The previous layout's passing sidings and refinery staging

Journal Entry, 2016: House completed

We designed and constructed this energy efficient home featuring a concrete shell, hydronic in-floor heating, zoned AC controlling cooling for each major room, 9" -12" of foam in the roof, AND a full basement, something unusual in Texas.

The house is tucked into the side of a hill and surrounded by 50' high canyon walls, not typical of what you think about the flat west Texas landscape.

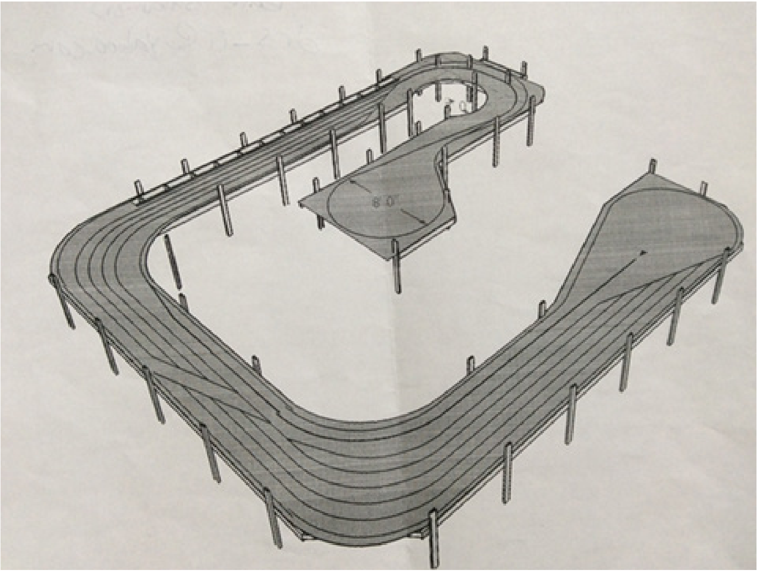
There are no posts or beams in a large room with a 9' ceiling. Sheetrock was fastened to the ICF insulated concrete form walls after the electrical and lighting was installed. The room is approximately 47' x 41'.



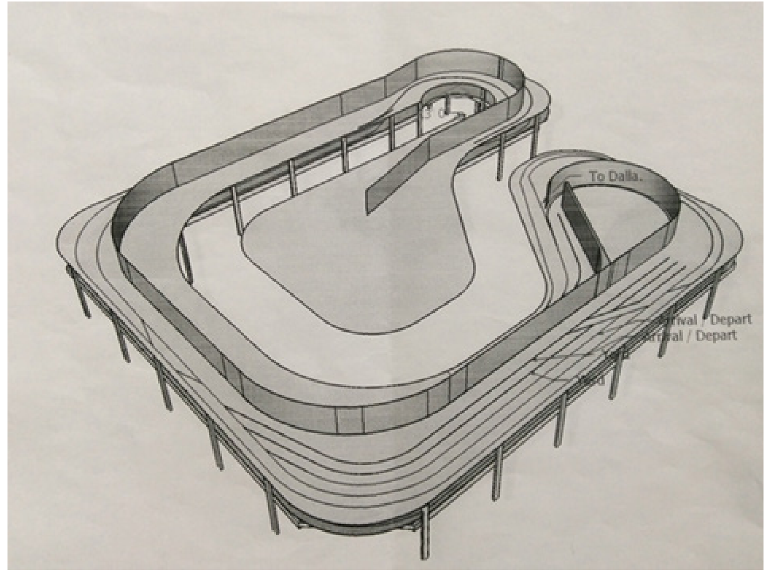
A view of the raw, unfinished insulated concrete form (ICF) walls of the future train room.



Our new house in outside Amarillo, TX



Lower level hidden storage



Upper operational level split by backdrops

Journal Entry, 2016: New Layout Started

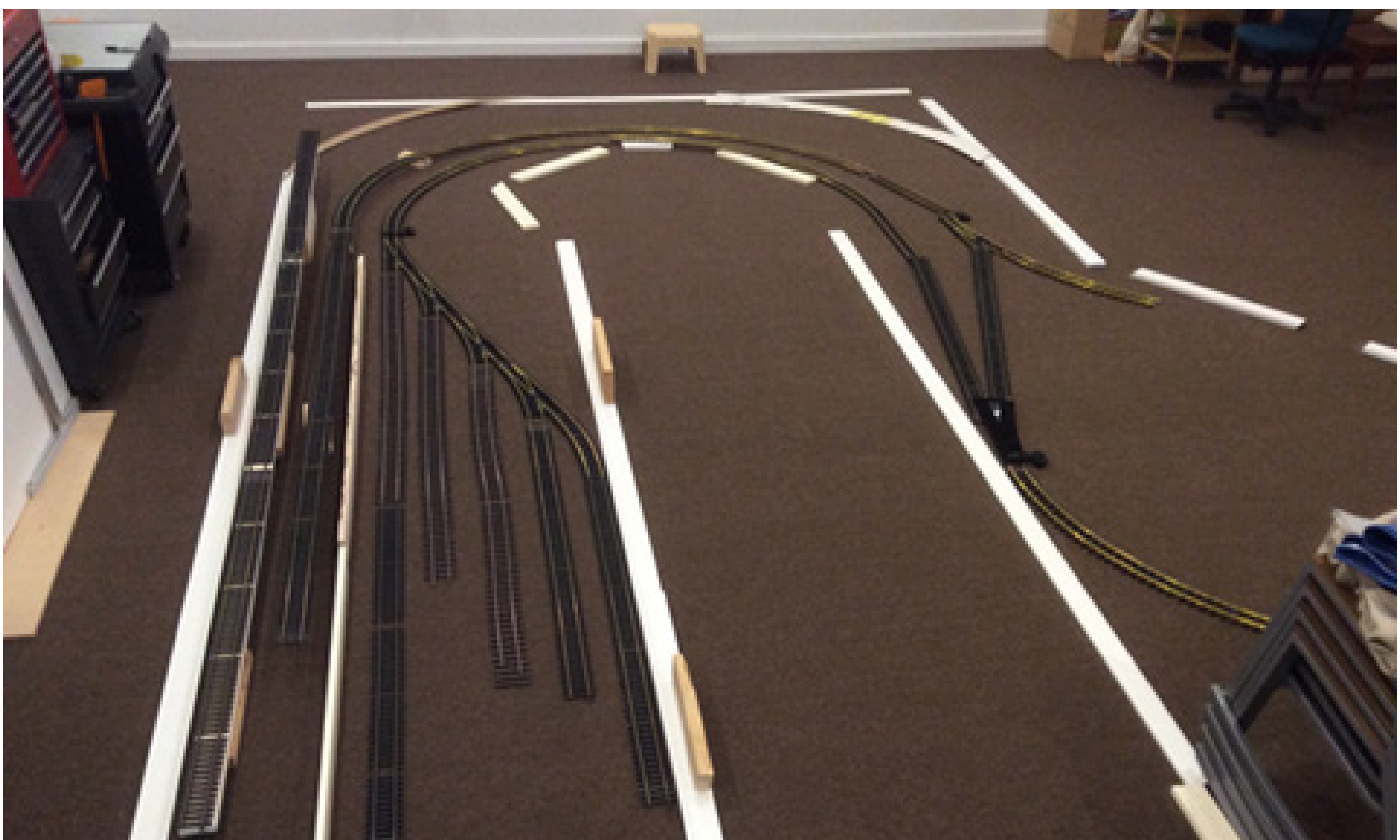
Main concept: Island Layout with No Duck-Unders! Imagine that!

This is the 3rd edition and the third house for the LS & NF Railroad, over the past 30 years. I was in S scale for 20 years, but I never made as much progress on any S layout, as I have on this or my previous two G gauge layouts.

Journal Entry, April 2016: Real Life Planning Begins

OK, so after I drew lots of plans in CAD (hundreds of variations) I finally settled on ONE. But I never trusted CAD to give a true representation of what I wanted in my model railroad. So I laid out the track plan and aisles on the floor to verify the concept.

The only CAD I trust





Framing: 2 x 4 for legs and 2 x 6 for support



Hidden staging planning

Journal Entry, May 2016: First lumber up

Next I started the work of framing: 2 x 4's for legs and 2 x 6's for framing to support the weight of heavier G gauge trains. Most of the lumber was salvaged from the second floor layout in my previous home. More framing completed, temporary decking on west side, on right track planning is in process for West Yard's hidden storage reverse loop. Aisles around the walls are a minimum of 3' 0", while they are a minimum of 3' 6" inside the island, with a maximum of 4' 0".

Journal Entry, June 2016:

Lots more framing, some permanent decking on the South and East side (foreground) and more track planning with snap track, to be sure hidden storage will work.

East Yard track planning





Reverse loop for West Yard hidden staging



West Yard hidden storage progress

Journal Entry, Spring of 2017

Permanent West Yard reverse loop track curvature is being tested with passenger cars, (photo from different direction.) Aisleways are now clearly defined, (and some are full of boxes.) Interior aisles constructed to widths of 42″ to 48″ to accommodate all operators, and someday when I might need a walker.

Permanent decking is now in place on black soundboard, ramps to operations deck on far left taking shape, and permanent code 250 Llagas Creek yard track fastened down. Double ended yard tracks are over 30′ long. The completed upper framing over the reverse loop, on right, is already covered with construction materials.

Hidden storage decking is 36″ above floor, allowing 29″ of clear space under the 2 x 6′s for storage; which provides lots of storage for large empty G gauge car boxes, and other items from the attic in the previous house. Eventually, a skirt around the layout will hide all these distractions from sight.



East Yard (hidden storage) with reverse loop



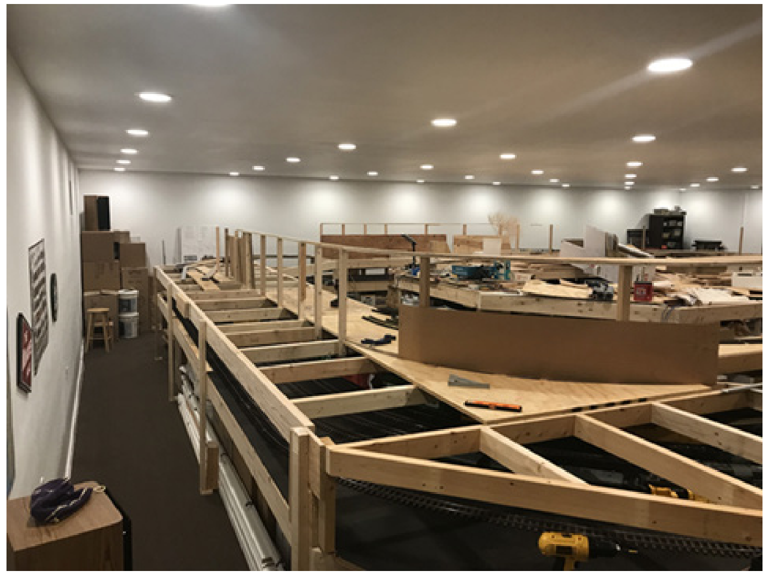
Looking south from the loop to the East Yard

Journal Entry, November 2017

By now, the southeast corner of East Yard hidden storage had permanent track and south side ladders were in place. The East Yard hidden storage and its north end ladder and reverse loop were completed with 5′ wide aisles.



Upper deck framing and decking



And this is how we build the sky!

Journal Entry, December 2018

With completion of the hidden storage track and switches, I started framing the upper visible Operations deck. Foreground and next photo show south end of the layout.

Interior of the island layout can be clearly seen with an aisles between it and the south section of the layout.



Masonite backdrop in place with south to the left and east to the right



Everyone needs a place to put their tools

Journal Entry, January 2019: Everyone needs BACKDROPS!

Dimensional lumber and Masonite are now splitting the island into two distinct sides.

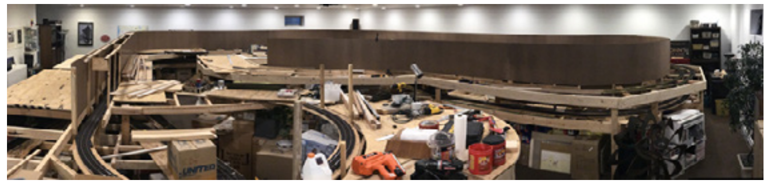
I heard someone say part of this hobby is to find your tools, like a hobby within the hobby! Journal Entry, Late Spring



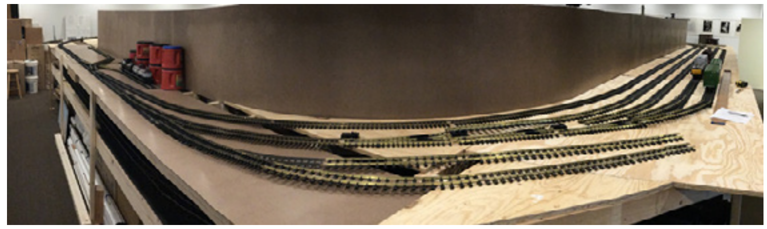
View of backdrop from northeast corner looking towards island

2019: More Backdrops for Upper Deck

North east corner of the room (the view when you walk into the layout), now has an early temporary single main line in place. Ballasted roadbed from the Houston first edition of the Late Start Never Finish RR, is patiently waiting on the floor for reuse. North east corner of the room (the view when you walk into the layout), now has an early temporary single main line in place. Ballasted roadbed from the Houston first edition of the Late Start Never Finish RR, is patiently waiting on the floor for reuse.



The backdrop coming along nicely

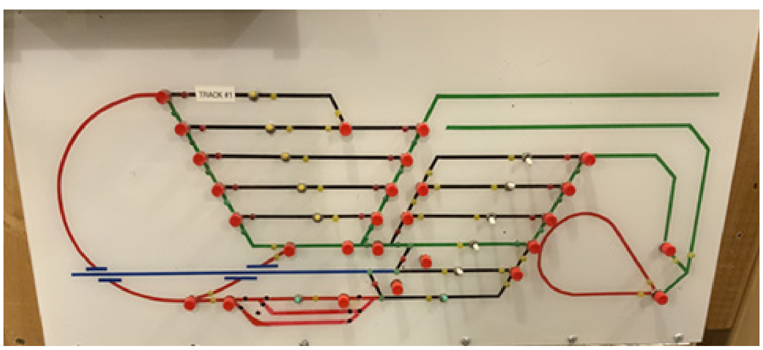


Using sectional track for planning the operation deck

Track Planning Time Again

The Upper Operational Deck, South and East Sides now get a turn on the "drawing board". Again, track planning with actual snap track is essential, as computer CAD can be very misleading. A plan has to be worked out so that the final handlaid track will work out, curves will spiral into straight sections, etc.

Starting to unbox the car fleet and getting a feel for the future East Yard and its spacing resulted in eliminating the idea of a sixth track. You may notice, I have cars from lots of eras, early wooden box and hopper cars, steam/diesel transition oar cars, and modern 53' box cars. I don't plan to intermix the eras during operations - that's why I have lots of hidden storage.



Control panel with push buttons for Tortoises and LEDs which show occupied tracks



6 cameras into the underworld (2 more pending)

Hidden Staging Controls and Monitors

Speed promised to laser cut me a control panel, but I already added two more tracks (shown in red) before he got a chance! (Remember to ask me about my love for LEDs and resistors!)

To monitor the hidden storage, I installed a Reolink power over internet (POI) security camera system, for 8 cameras, each with infrared LEDs. POI allows the use of a simple CAT6 cable for connecting cameras to the main system for data and power, which was great as one camera had an 85' long cable back to the system.

The Reolink system was easy to set up and worked as advertised, without the problems reviewers reported about other systems. Along with my Easy DCC system, this allows me to successfully operate the Hidden Storage. I am very happy with this setup.



Ever seen two trains arrive at the same time?

Journal Entry, Fall 2019: Time to Start Having Fun!

Enough work! After 4 years of not running my trains, time to set up some temporary track, and start running some trains; Before I get tooooo old to remember why I started this project.

More recently in 2020: Having Fun, but still working on the layout

During the 2020 spring and summer, I've been making more progress. Had my first visitors over the last year, and let them use the remotes, AND run trains over the temporary track.

Track planning continues, along with revisions to installed track. I had to revise the radii on two curves to allow operation of some longer modern freight cars, backdrops were removed, curves revised, and backdrops reconstructed. Recently I started painting the backdrop, etc.

Got to hurry up progress; there's a reason this Railroad is called the Late Start & Never Finish

Again, if you are passing through Amarillo on your way to Colorado or beyond, please look me up in the NMRA Model RR Directory, and contact me to be sure that I'm home. Hopefully I'm home and we can operate the big trains. ML



One train on passing siding while another freight goes by on the main



UP Mallet passing by (notice how the sky turned blue too?)

Director Reports



Bayou Division 2

by Ken Mason
series9parts@cox.net
504-722-6610

This time I would like to talk about the CCMRC in Metairie and the damage sustained during Hurricane Ida on August 29, 2021.

The CCMRC club building took a serious hit during Hurricane Ida. The damage was done when neighbor Ron Loupe's entire roof came off the house on the corner behind our club building and rolled over our roof putting four holes in our roof and ripping off our electrical connection to the pole across the street. In addition to that, the Magnolia tree at the southeast end of the building was blown over and knocked a big hole in the back corner of the building as well.

The resulting rain and water that got into the building has caused us to have a mold issue too. Luckily it looks like the layout itself escaped without much, if any physical damage that we have been able to access so far, except for a few freight cars and building that were below the debris that fell onto The Trager/Martin Shops area of the layout. The other damage seen so far is water staining on the backdrop in different places. Turner City had some water leak onto that area, but it looks as though no damage was done to the trackage, just the ballast and some scenery. All of this can be put right once we get the roof repaired and the inner ceiling fixed, and the mold remediation handled.

I was the first to the building after the storm and has pictures of the damage from inside and out. The roof that caused our damaged ended up landing across N. Lester Ave on the front yard of the yellow house with the utility pole that held our electrical wire. See the pictures for details if you have not been by the club since the storm. CCMRC member and electrician David Rills was able to get the electrical meter re-installed and Entergy came out right away to connect our power.

President Greg Javonillo has been working very hard to try and find different options for funding the repairs. Hopefully something may come from all his effort.

The club has created a Go Fund Me page with the help of David Perkins, David Haslauer and Greg Javonillo working to get the details ironed out. The link is here.

Please help if you can. We have already had a few donations from club members even before the Go Fund Me page has gone live.

We are also reviewing estimates for the roof repairs and hope to have a contractor working on that ASAP. We need to get the building repaired as soon as we can because if we do not have the building, we do not have a club.

That's all for now. Please help if you can. Any donation is much appreciated. We will succeed in getting this repaired and the club will go on.







North East Texas Division 3

by Charles Goodrich
goodrich.charles@att.net

Division 3 has been having live meetings since August. Attendance has been a little less than before Covid but the programs have been excellent. Attendance should improve as more people feel comfortable attending group meetings. We plan to continue with live meetings and offer real content during the meetings. The clinics have been very good. Clinics presented were Jeff Palmer giving a clinic on Ground Goop scenic technic, Rodney Doster titled Gap Master Revisited and Thomas Stephens giving his on the Steam to Diesel Transition Era.

There were two achievement awards given this period. Tom Greco received his Association Volunteer certificate and Marc LaChey getting his Master Builder-Structures award.

The Plano Train show was held at the Plano Event Center on Saturday October 2-3, 2021. Total attendance was 1883 which was only about 15% off from the last time the show was held. Very successful considering the last couple of years. The show is sponsored by the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs. Thomas Stephens and Betty Mitchell are council members for Division 3. There are two Plano train shows each year. Division 1 heads us the volunteers for the fall show and Division 3 heads up volunteers for the Spring Show.

We will resume having our Christmas party this year. Donna Orr has again graciously agreed to host the party at her house. It will start at 3:00 PM on December 18th. This is always a popular event and we look forward to seeing everyone together celebrating Christmas.



Tom Greco



Marc LaChey



CenTex Division 4
by Bob Thiele
director@centexnmra.org
CenTexNMRA.org



Over the last six months the Division has is starting to transition back to what is called normal. On November 13th the Division held its first in person gathering. As the Division uses Austin rec center for their meeting facilities, this was the first chance to gather. It was great to be able to have conversations in person. Members talked about and showed what they have been up to for the last 20 months.

The one goal of inclusion for all the members was accomplished by also conducting a Zoom meeting for persons who were not able to attendance. There were a lot of bumps in the road, but valuable information was learned and improvements will be included in the next division meeting in January.

The main focus of the Division director has been to assemble the final pieces for the 2022 convention in Temple Texas. This has been accomplished and it is now time to get the information out. The Website has been built and the introduction will be announced shortly. From now until May 2022, media announcement will be disturbed to the regional membership on a regular interval. Comments and ideas from the last four conventions have been incorporated in this convention so that members can have an enjoyable experience.



Division 6

by Don Winn
donnswinn@gmail.com
940.391.0950



Although Tulsa was a long drive from South Texas, it was good to see quite of number of you Division 6ers at the regional convention in October. It had been over 18 months since our last convention, so it was great to get back into it again. Sharing the convention with the Mid Continent Region made it even more interesting with some great modelers from outside of our region. I found all of the clinics to be very interesting, and plenty of interesting models in the contest room.



Closer to home, the South Texas Railroad Social was held in September again as a hybrid live/Zoom event. We were treated to clinics that included a what-if scenario for the Gulf Northwestern railroad and modeling a mobile rock crusher. The next session is scheduled for December 11th at the Longhorn Cafe. For more info, visit http://www.southtexasrr.com/

Even closer to home, back in my train room, one of the projects I've been building is another helix. This one is a single track to move trains to the branch line that I added under the main level. Adding on to the normal helix, I used the threaded rods to support two turn-back loops for staging yards. Keeping them level while the helix spirals was a little tricky, but it worked. Helixes are space hogs, so supporting these turn-back loops with the helix helps to keep the overall diameter of the whole assembly as small as possible.



Reminder that we're still accepting nominations for our annual youth award, so please contact me if know of a deserving youth in our hobby.

As always, if there is anything I can do to help you in your modeling, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Stay safe out there.







At-Large

by Pete Leach, MMR
pleachtx55@gmail.com

photo courtesy Sam Swanson. He took these during one of the make-and-take sessions at the NNGC in Hickory



It's been a hectic Summer leading into Fall for this Director. I couldn't attend the Tulsa Union Convention co-hosted by the LSR, Mid-Continent, and Indian Nations Div. due to family obligations. This is the first LSR Convention I've missed in few years. I do look forward to 2022 Convention in Temple. I was able to attend the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Hickory, NC. My wife and I made a road trip of it since I was giving a clinic on backdrop painting. I needed to bring supplies and materials for this hands-on clinic. I conducted 2 sessions with 8 participants in each. In addition to the 8 painting participants, I had over 20 observers at each of the two sessions. The audience was appreciative, and we all had a good time.

In addition to the clinics, I visited five home layouts in the area. There are some great model railroads in North Carolina! I always come away from these events renewed and inspired. I must say, it was great to have a chance to get back to some sort of normal!

After the convention, my wife and I stopped at the Dollywood Amusement Park for a few days. While walking through the park, I smelled coal smoke and hurried over to see No 70 with a full head of steam pulling a string of excursion cars. The locomotive was built in 1938 by Baldwin for the 3-Foot gauge White Pass & Yukon. It was quite a sight!

I continue to write monthly articles for the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club newsletter: The DERAIL. A monthly deadline keeps me motivated and at the workbench. I am preparing a clinic to be presented at an upcoming San Jac meeting in January or February. I enjoy preparing and giving clinics. I find it an important part of the hobby.

As Nomination Chair, I have reached out to the current office holders that are up for election in 2022. We have several offices up for election. If anyone is interested in running for office, or have questions about the positions, please contact me by phone or email.

Offices up for election in 2022:
Vice President
Secretary
Division 2, 4, 6, and 8 Directors
3 – Directors at Large



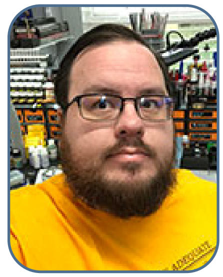


Middle and bottom photos by Pete Leach. No. 70 crosses on a trestle under steam at the Dollywood Park in Pigeon Forge, TN

No Reports



Cowcatcher Division 1
by Mike Mackey, MMR
director@cowcatcherdivision.org
cowcatcherdivision.com



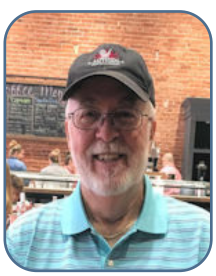
Division 5
by Brooks Willig
Headroadie2004@gmail.com



Division 7
by Don Kimmell
elf4kcs@mac.com
318.798.7718



Texas Gulf Division 8
by Phil Stewart
pstewart1225@yahoo.com



At-Large
by Darryl Cowels
darrellcowles1@gmail.com



At-Large
by Marc LaChey
bu1977@att.net



AustNtrak Skyscrapers
photo by
Riley Triggs

Youth



by Jim Lemmond
jimlem@comcast.net

The 2020 Youth Awardees have or will receive their recognition plaques at ceremonies at the clubs that nominated them. Division 6 held a virtual award ceremony in March 2021. Division 8 will honor their awardee at a live meeting on July 17, 2021, at the All Points North Model Railroad Club in Conroe. No information has been received concerning Division 3.

Wanted! Nominees for the LSR 2022 Youth Award.

- Who: Any boy or girl 18 years old or younger with an interest in model railroading.
- Where: One nominee from each LSR Division.
- A past awardee: May be renominated for another year if they meet the qualifications specified in the LSR Constitution. Contact Jim Lemmond before December 1, 2021.
- How: Fill out the special Youth Award Membership Form available on http://www.lonestarregion.com/
- When: Submitted to your LSR. Division Director by December 1, 2021. For more information contact: Jim Lemmond, Youth Chairman: jimlem@comcast.net

Mike Mackey
Division 1 Director
Email: director@cowcatcherdivision.org

Ken Mason
Division 2 Director
Email: series9parts@cox.net

Boyd Patterson
Division 3 Director
Email: mboydpattersonjr@gmail.com

Bob Thiele
Division 4 Director
Email: rthiele52@hotmail.com

Brooks Willig
Division 5 Director
Email: Headroadie2004@gmail.com

Don Winn
Division 6 Director
Email: donswinn@gmail.com

Don Kimmell
Division 7 Director
Email: prrdpkjr@msn.com
Elf4kcs@mac.com

Phil Stewart
Division 8 Director
Email: pstewart1225@yahoo.com

Treasurer Report



by Speed Muller, Treasurer
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com
469-345-0022

The only real $$$ news is that we were able to send Division 5's escrow money to them! One more member also joined from the Delattre Fund, so maybe there is hope to recruit a few more members from the past or present defense forces. We also know that the Tulsa joint convention with MCoR was a success, so we also expect to get the "loan" repaid, fingers crossed. Well, to be truthful, they did pay it back, but it will show in the 3rd quarter report. Thanks for an awesome convention. Be safe!

Second Quarter, 2021/2022:

Beginning Balances (2021/08/01)	
Tulsa Advance	$ 1,000.00
LSR Unrestricted Accounts	$41,246.37
Beginning Total LSR Net Worth	**$42,246.37**
Bob Clarke Award Fund	$ 528.86
Division 5 and 7 Rebates in Escrow	$ 167.00
Delattre Fund	$ 660.00
Outstanding checks	$ 0.00
Future Advances due	$-1,000.00
Bank Saldo at bank	**$42,602.23**
Proceeds	
NMRA Rebate	$ 774.00
Total Proceeds	**$ 774.00**
Disbursements	
Audio Visual Tools	$ 217.44
NMRA Rebates to Divisions	$ 387.00
Delattre Fund member	$ 82.00
Payout of Div 5 Escrow	$ 40.50
Total Disbursements	**$ 726.94**
Net Proceeds-Disbursements	**$ 47.06**
Updates to Restricted Funds:	
Delattre Fund	$ -82.00
Division 5 Rebate from Escrow	$ -40.50
Division 7 Rebate into Escrow	$ 12.50
Change in Liabilities	**$ -110.00**
Ending Balances (2021/10/31)	
Tulsa Advance	$ 1,000.00
LSR Unrestricted Accounts Total	$41,415.93
Total LSR Net Worth	**$42,415.93**
Bob Clarke Award	$ 528.86
Division 7 Rebate in Escrow	$ 139.00
Delattre Fund	$ 578.00
Outstanding checks	$ 107.50
Future Advances due	$-1,000.00
Bank Saldo at bank	**$42,769.29**

DEALER ADS

PIKE ADS

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Bill Dryden
469-964-8571
Georgetown, Texas
bdrl149@airmail.net
Life Member NMRA & LSR

BC&G

BAYOU CITY & GULF RAILROAD

New Members & Visitors Welcome!

How-to Clinics - Operating Sessions - Family Activities

N'Crowd Model Railroad Society

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www.houstonNcrowd.org

Pennsylvania Railroad
Laurel Valley Secondary

Pittsburgh Division Circa 1957
Brady & Jane McGuire, Sherman, Texas
903-868-2726
Southwestern Pennsylvania in Texas O Scale

Cowtown Model Railroad Club
Fort Worth, Texas

Home of the Gulf & Denver Model Railroad
A 501(C)3 Non-Profit Organization

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www.cmrrc.webs.com

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NEVADUN RAILROAD

Jim Packer
Colleyville, Texas 76034
817-514-7291
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